APRIL 1, 1988

MONTEREY NEWS

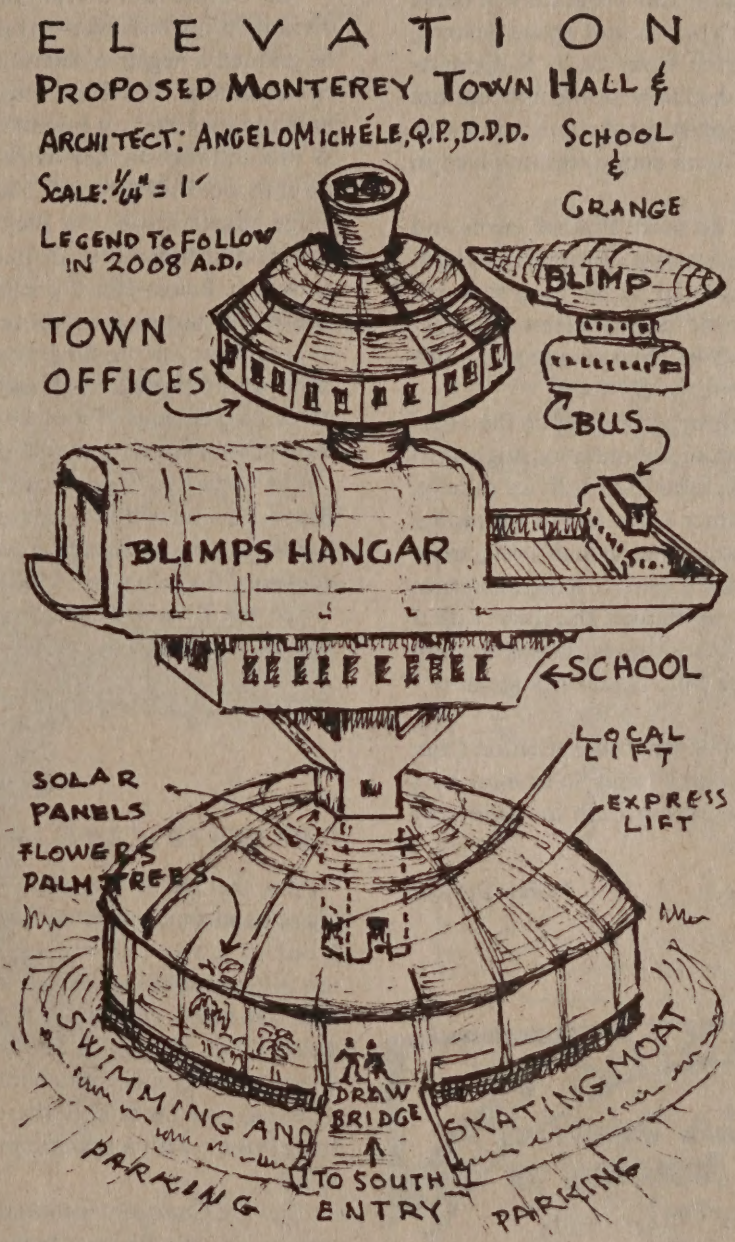
TOWN NEWS

The Signs Are Down

Perspicacious passersby will have noticed that the attractive signs advertising a farmhouse and 25 acres are no longer in place on Barnum flats. In a press release dated March 1 (or was it April 1?) Monterey Selectmen proclaimed that "with great pride we announce plans to purchase ten acres on Barnum Flats to be used as the site for Monterey's new Town Hall. The new building, designed by architect Angelo Michele of the section of town called Hog Hollow, will be a model of its type. Furthermore, built, as it will be, not only in a flood plain but also in a freshwater wet meadow bordering a stream, it will be an innovative example of ingenuity, state of the art conservation principles, and sheer audacity.

Particularly notable among the many novelties will be the Blimp Hanger and pick-up station for the children attending school on the level beneath the tower Town Offices. Also of special interest is the moat surrounding the structure which will be used for swimming in summer and skating in winter. Landscaping will be overseen by the Audubon Society and will feature such old wetland favorites as Hairy Thoroughwort, and Purple Loosestrife with a clever pathway made of Tussock Sedge. All this will complement the tropical plantings in the spacious plexiglass lobby.

"The septic challenge alone is exhilarating," said Selectman Willy ("Wily") Williams, Chairman of the Board of Health. "Percability being what it is, sewage from the Town Hall will have to be pumped for miles, perhaps all over town. Everyone can share in the responsibility!"



It was pointed out at the regular Selectmen's meeting on March 14 (or was it April 1?) that appropriation of funds for the new building will require a vote of approval at the upcoming Town Meeting. Sources of money in addition to cold cash taken from taxation will include: $5,700 from Available Funds; $3,200 from the Stabilization Fund; $2,700 from the Stabilization Fund; $500 from the Reserve Fund; and $40,000 from the Mass Clean Wet Meadows Program. Only $450,000 remains to be appropriated by taxation. "That should just about do it," said Selectman Rich Milky with a mercenary grin, "so long as the voters come up with the green stuff."

Monterey is fortunate to have such a number of far-thinking leaders and creative planners.

Roads and Machinery Report

Plagued with difficulties and breakdowns throughout the winter of 1987-88, Roads and Machinery Committeepeople met with Mon-Selectmen late this winter to decide on a new course of action. It was decided to adopt a fresh approach to winter road maintenance. Guided by a privileged communication from State Highway Commissioner Kalakuyuwish from Anchorage, Alaska, as well as top secret data from NASA technicians in Florida, the group has devised a model method of snow removal.

Called S.POOF, or Snow Poof!, the process will involve linking up with one of the newer weather satellites on the horizon (so to speak), as well as the recently improved Super Laser, used in so many large scale removals here on earth. The technique is simple: Super Laser beams out to a microchip affixed to the weather satellite (affectionately named "So-what-nik" by its makers, due to the rather casual course it

takes through the heavens). The microchip will be imprinted with a roads map of Monterey. After each big snow, the old fire siren will sound, everyone in town will scurry into his or her house, Super Laser will go bouncing off the chip, and Poof! all roads will be clean.

Residents should be advised that private driveways may be included in the plan for a yearly fee, but homeowners must register their driveway permit with MASS MicroChip Mapdown, 13 Exeter Street, Boston, MA, before November 15, 1988, in order to be eligible for laser snow removal between winter 1988 and the scheduled remapping in 2088.

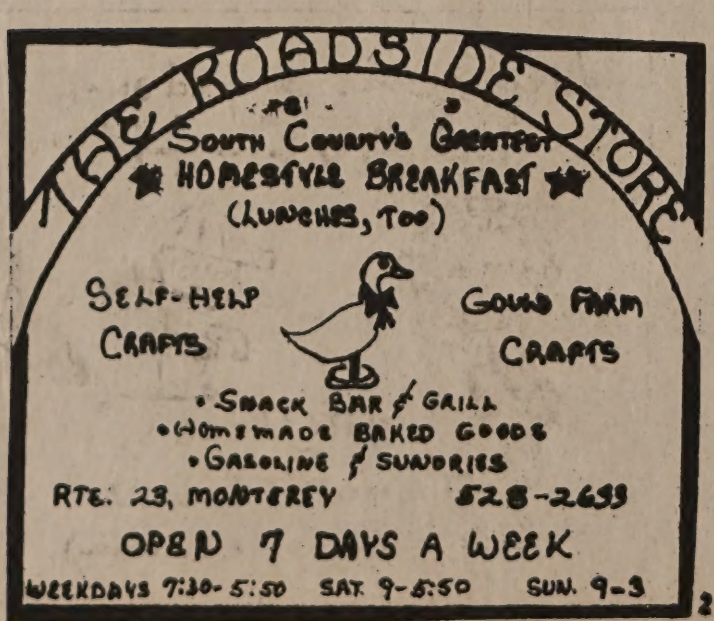
Although most of the funding for this program will come from the National Academy of Experimental Space Science, complemented by a matching grant from the U. S. Department of Defense, voters will be asked to raise and appropriate a sum of money to facilitate the sophisticated communications network required and to salary Town employees involved in the work.

"No more salt, no more sand, no more crushed curbs and shrubbery!" said the gleeful Don Amstead, Monterey's Highway Superintendent, looking forward to his cozy new job sounding the old fire siren. Others of the Town crew will function primarily to prevent automobiles from using town roads during the brief, dazzling moments of S.POOF.

An added attraction of the new program will be the occasional tune-up during the lazy summer months during which Monterey's plows and sand trucks used to sit and rust quietly. Now, the relationship between Super Laser and its microchip requires that the system be activated every two months, snow or no snow. Arrangements have been made to lease Butternut Basin's snowmaking equipment to blanket the town with a nice quality resort snow, specifically for the testing and tune-up days. In winter '88-'89 these will be May 1, July 4, September 7 and November 10.

"This is an exquisite example of mutual co-operation from local level to the national and beyond," said Selectman Jake Hyperbolipsky. "S.POOF will be a giant flash for Monterey and a mind blower for mankind."

— Yellen Person



MONTEREY CONSERVATION COMMISSION COLLABORATES WITH ENGINEERING FIRM

The Conservation Commission has been approached recently by a private, non-profit, non-human organization interested in construction work in town, especially in wetlands. The organization, called "Beave-Ho," specializes in wetland work and community services and although they may be said to work "outside the law," they do have centuries of experience in the field, especially in the controversial area of wetland replication and expansion.

The Conservation Commission has long held that an individual using only teeth, front paws, and tail for tamping may be granted a negative determination of applicability, in certain circumstances. Beave-Ho engineers now point out that as nonhumans they are not bound by the Wetlands Protection Act, as philanthropists they work for free, and as obsessives they want to work all the time. Their specialty is of course dam and lodge construction, but they provide experts in ornamental tree and shrub removal, hardwood girdling, and lawn inundation. Beave-Ho offers dawn and dusk workshops for all interested parties (neighbors, couples, siblings, presidential hopefuls, etc.) in the slinging and slapping of mud. Special fall offerings include "Eating Plenty of Bark for Winter" and "Underwater Twig Storage," for those who would like to make it through the winter without a single trip to Price Chopper.

The Monterey Conservation Commission heartily endorses Beave-Ho and will soon be turning over all of its work to these hard-working wetlands experts. Do you have a wetlands question? Call a beaver. Like this: "Yoo — hoo! Bea — — ver!"

See the Beave-Ho block ad elsewhere in this issue of the *Monterey News*.

— Sally Mander
Monterey Conservation Commission

FIRE HOUSE SCUTTLEBUTT

Now that the new pavilion is finished and painted and looking so handsome out behind the fire house, every special interest group in town has approached the Fire Company wanting to use it for something. We are of course pleased that everyone likes it so much, and we hate to turn down the Scouts, the Square-dance Club, the Doily Tatting Group and the Dog Training Class, but we're sure you'll all find some other space for your meetings (try upstairs in the school house), and we did build the pavilion with a specific public interest and safety issue in mind.

The Fire Company is concerned with all aspects of community well being, and we have been alarmed by recent reports on increased danger from acid rain. So we built you all an acid rain shelter. Now we urge you to make use of it. Whenever it rains, or looks like rain, we hope to see every man, woman, child, dog, cat, pony, chicken and outdoor potted plant under that pavilion. It will be a good chance to get to know your neighbors (and their pets) and if you have any bicycles, lawn furniture or marble statuary you value, please bring it along, too, as acid rain is damaging to all of these things.

For the Fire Company

Holly Blazes

PERSONAL NOTES

Welcome back to **Queen Wilhelmina** of the Netherlands, whose visit to Monterey in the 1930s is warmly remembered by all of us. "It's all right in the Low Country," she tells us, "but my spirits get a lift in the high country."

Hearty thanks to **J. K. Hadsell, J. L. Twing, J. H. Langdon & Co., J. A. Brewer, L. J. Nettleton, E. J. Goewey, William E. Bump,** and **George L. Keyes** for the work they put into the Monterey schools in 1886-1887. It is this kind of long-lasting repair expertise that makes our schools what they are, today.

It was very good to see **Mauhammetpeet, Skheaump, Nanauphtaunk, Wauwaumpequunaunt** and **Mukhuquantaum**, in town over the last weekend. Following the treaty rectification, mentioned in this issue in **Indian Notes**, they have been having a nostalgic visit to Berkshire County and report that they have been very well satisfied with what they have seen. We're always glad to have visitors, especially if they intend to stay on awhile.

Remember we're always looking for your news, visits, travels. This column depends on you, our readers, for what's in it. You can always find me at 683-44415-5670.

— Harold Notefinder

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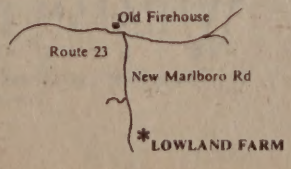
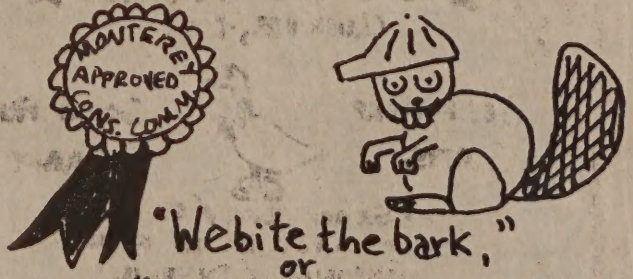
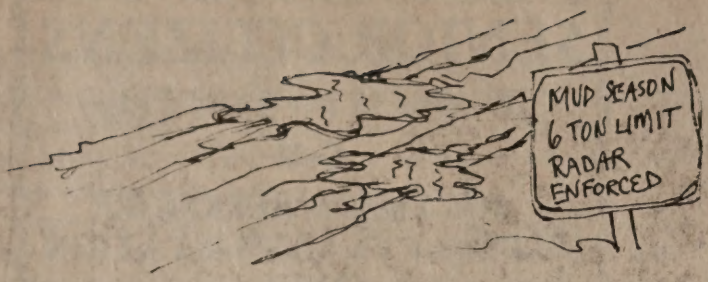


Wetlands work? You need an expert.

BEAVE-HO



"Webite the bark,"
or
"Dig and be dammed."
(Just call us, real loud.)



MONTEREY WASTELINES

With the Partyka landfill overflowing, the question becomes more urgent —where is Western Massachusetts going to deposit our solid waste? Well, the question seems soon to be answered. Usually informed sources report that the Monterey Selectmen have formed a semi-public corporation called *Haul it to Monterey, Inc.* Tentative plans call for a 75-acre tract of land off Hunger Mt. Road to be set aside (through the law of *imminent domain*) for a multi-purpose landfill. High terrain was chosen for the site, for several reasons. First hawks and other carrion eaters could more easily spot a high site, and thus reduce the volume of waste. Second, the high winds occurring at the site could aid in distributing the waste, thus more volume could be accommodated. Finally, less power would be required in the landfill operation here, since the waste material could be bulldozed downhill. Sources imply that one reason for the extensive roadbuilding operations carried out over the past several years on Hunger Mountain Road was in anticipation of this massive landfill plan. Other sources imply that the current discussions concerning a Mass Turnpike interchange in Becket also have something to do with this Monterey landfill project.

Haul it to Monterey, Inc. could become a major employer in our town, and will likely be welcomed by most public-minded citizens. One can envisage many spin-off industries arising from this effort. Trucking firms may want to establish operations on the eastern side of the town to accommodate the business which will be created. Sportsmen will likely come in large numbers to shoot the well-fed hawks; gun shops and overnite accommodations will be needed.

We can now forget all the talk of waste reduction, recycling and user fees for solid waste. When this huge landfill on Hunger Mountain becomes a reality, large royalty fees will flood the Town coffers, and all Town services (including solid waste dumping) will become too cheap to meter. Then we can finally build that mounted statue of R. R. in the park and have free champagne and jelly beans on February 6, each and every year.

— Bayne Wurkhart

INDIAN NOTES

The Treaty of 1789

An ancestral oversight has come to light that will have a curious effect on everyone in Berkshire County. In an effort to protect our Native American predecessors, the treaty of 1789 was proposed by the Federal Government and quickly ratified and forgotten. *But it is still on the books.* This treaty specifies that "Alle laund tranfactions with our aboriginal neighbors," must be approved by Congress to be valid.

Since the treaty was so quickly forgotten, Congressional approval was never secured for the numerous land transactions that took place between our local Mahicans and the early settlers. At the time, the rapid acquisition of land was referred to as the "original Massachusetts miracle," but now it appears to have been a mistake.

When contacted early last week, John Pophnehonmukwok, Land Reacquisition Officer of the Munsee-Muhekonneok Agency in Bowler, Wisconsin, said, "We certainly don't want to run any of you folks out of your homes, all we want is our Bible returned by the Trustees of Reservations. We'll just let anyone who is squatting on our property buy it fair and square, if they can get Congressional approval."

The problem, which is becoming widely known as the Mahicangate Scandal, would certainly be worse if the Munsee-Muhekonneok people were not being so understanding and moderate in their demands. It is hoped that another miracle may be enacted and the Federal Government persuaded to bail out Western Massachusetts as they did the State of Maine, a few years ago.

— David P. Muhekonneok

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Before drawdown . . .

LAKE DRAWDOWN, BEACH PARKING PROBLEMS SOLVED

In a special, joint meeting of the Lake Garfield Association, the Parks Commission, the Conservation Commission, and the Board of Selectmen at 2:30 a.m. last week it was unanimously decided to settle the lake drawdown and beach parking problems for once and for all. Persons present at the meeting were all simultaneously struck with the obvious "two birds, one stone" solution which is to draw the lake down, all the way, for good, and then pave over the resulting shallow bowl in the "small lake" area near the beach for a parking lot.

It was decided to spread the word of the big paving job among friends and relations of the various board members to see who wants the contract. No heavy earth-moving machinery will be used on the job, so there will be no damage to the (previously) precious wetlands. The shallow bowl will provide good drainage for the parking area and any rainfall which collects at the bottom of the basin will be sponged up by volunteers and wrung out on nearby vegetable gardens and lawns as a community service.

What to do with the dried-up "big lake" end of the lake remains an area of lively speculation, as you can just imagine. Several fine suggestions were made, but basically anybody who wants to do anything with it is welcome to jump in there and do it and good luck to them. See you at the parking lot, neighbor!

— Boggy Mudleachester

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. . . after drawdown.

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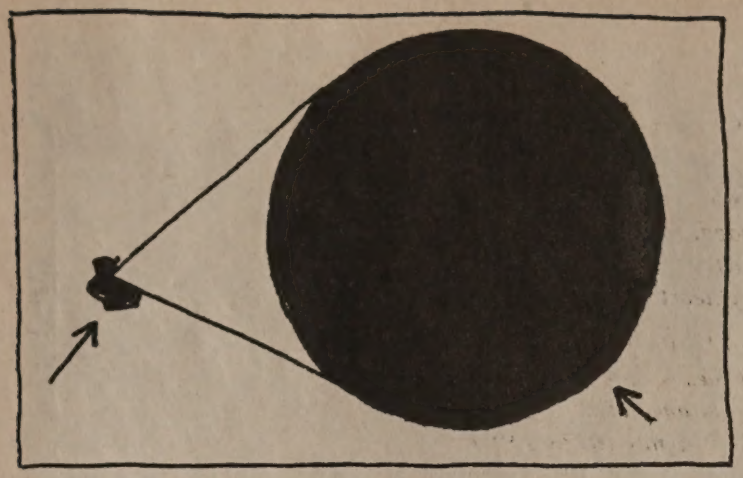


A tiny bit of leaf-mould, enlarged many many times.

MAPLE SYRUP AND CANNIBALISM

The other day, while walking through our woods, I was amazed to discover a small piece of leaf-mould. I almost passed it by, but somehow it must have called to me because I stooped and picked it up.

It was slightly damp, with the life-giving water of snow-melt, and to me it symbolized everything in the world, including that overwhelming emotion, love. I love nature, I love it, I love it. And I love leaf-mould. This little piece which so inspired me was a bit of last year's sugar maple canopy, once an active station for photosynthesis, buzzing with the chemical production of sugar, glowing green with lovely chlorophyll. Now, long departed from the organizing body of the tree, it had moved along to its next job in the marvelous web of life, death, and nourishment: rotting.

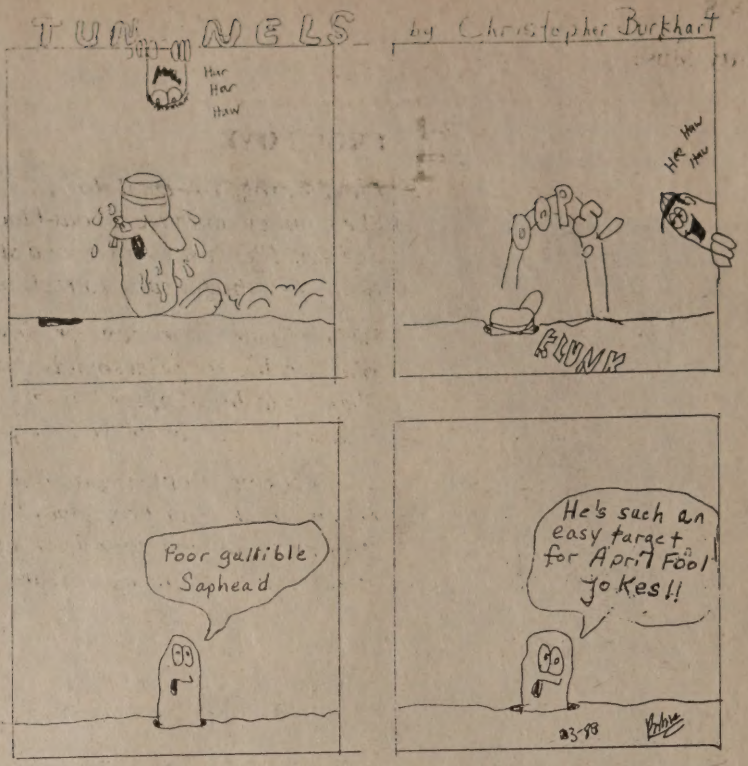
I love rotting. I love it, I love it, I love it. It is so natural, so inevitable, and so necessary. Without rotting we would have all the zillions of leaves from time immemorial smothering the countryside, not to mention all the orange peels, dead bodies, etc. Every dinosaur carcass, every gum wrapper, every everything. And not only would it be a big mess, a problem in terms of getting out the front door, but also it would be just so much energy locked up forever, not doing anybody any good.

So here we have this fragment of leaf-mould, representing the great wheel of life. I love life, I love it, I love it. I love the way it goes on and on and then ends and then rots and nourishes the next life, the way compost feeds the garden and leaf-mould feeds the sugar maples. It's almost like a weird form of perpetual motion, or life (and death) everlasting, or even cannibalism.

I love cannibalism. I love it, I love it, I love it. Basically our bodies are all made up of elements and water and the sun's energy, and when we die and rot we just enter that great slushy pool of components again. This little leaf-mould is like a little bit of me, ready to nourish me and I'm like a big pile of leaf-mould. I'm going to keel over one day and nourish the sugar maples and make maple syrup.

I love maple syrup.

— Mabel C. Rupp



PHOTON, INC.

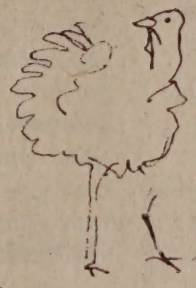
Young Monterey jeweller Tina wears her necklaces. Tina, extraordinarily successful for one only two years old, began her training in the Great Barrington Obedience School. Her spirit of independence and her originality, however, soon propelled her into the arts. She is accompanied by Maureen, also of Banner Studios, who models a biscuit brooch.

FROG LOVE

I love a frog, I swear I do
She's slimey and green, cold-blooded, too.
She eats flies just to give me a start
And sings chug-a-rum, to melt my heart.

We'll be married in summer, down by the lake
With leeches for bridesmaids and flies on the cake.
She'll wear her flippers, I'll rent coat and tails
And we'll walk down the aisle past the mussels and snails.

The blackbirds will sing on our wedding day
When Daddy Bull Frog gives his daughter away,
And I'll be the one to fall off my log
Right into the arms of my true-love, the frog.



MY LIFE

My life is like the daffodil:
Yellow, green, and such a thrill;
I feel so sweet, so fresh and pert,
And yet my bulb is in the dirt.

UNTITLED

I climbed a mountain to the top
My heart did thump, my ears did pop.

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

The board is disappointed to have to report a decline in applications last month—we received only 47 Form A (subdivision) approval not required) applications and 8 subdivision plans.

Our big news is that we have received approval from the State Attorney General's office for the wording of our new by-law provisions, about which most of you have heard. Under the revised by-law, several new requirements will go into place for lots in Monterey:

a) Minimum height for all dwellings will be 30 feet.
b) Residents of the Lakeshore district must provide two Canada Goose nest platforms for each 100 feet of lake frontage.
c) Agricultural-residential district lots will be enlarged by the extension of their side lot lines to the center of the town road on which they front. Landowners will buy this acreage at current market rates and will be billed by the Town Road Crew for maintenance fees.
d) all dwellings must have prominently visible dish antennae at a maximum distance of 50 feet from the road.

These new by-laws will go into effect on April 1, 1988. The State Attorney General has recommended that there be no "grandfather" exclusions granted for existing lots or dwellings.

— Morty Struksen

ADNOTATIONES E BIBLIOTHECA

Kalendis Aprilibus decet nos, lectores Monteregenses, facetias verborum et in mente et in ore habere; decet quoque homines facete dicentes scriptoresque comoediarum memorare, vel antiquos vel recentiores.

Nomino primum Catullum poetam, qui in carmine quodam suo Fabullum amicum ad cenam invitabat, promittens bonam cenam pulchramque puellam, et vinum et sal et omnes cachinnae, si modo attulerit ea ipse Fabullus. Plautus quoque comoedias scripsit, quae tempore recentiore et in scaenam et in cinematographeam editae sunt, Nihil Mostel servum agente.

Auctoresque Angli quoque lepide scripserunt, inter quos praecipui Hastivibrax in comoediis, Iohanna Augustina in novellis, Hieronymus K. Hieronymus in libro Tres Viri in Navi. *Nostra aetate legimus P. G. Silvanadomum. Sed Hibernici scriptores maiores videntur quam Anglis: Jonathan Celer, Oscar Ferox, G. B. Nemus, Miles de Equillis. Patria nostra nobis offert Marcus Duo praestantissimus, Fratres Marcos, Dorotheam Parricam. Hi omnes in bibliotheca Monteregis invenies, aut in bibliotheca regionali.*

Quid plura? Restat tantum ut vobis carmen quoddam incerti auctoris aetatae nostra nunc praescribam:

O civili, si ergo fortibus es in ero!
O nobile, deis trux. Vatis enim? Causa in dux.

Dabam Monteregense — *Iohannes Higgins*
Kal. Apr. 1988 — *Praeses, Bibliothecae Custodum*

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MONTEREY GRANGE NEWS*

The Monterey Grange #291 met March 2. Members voted unanimously to give the Grange Hall to the Town of Monterey. District Deputy Alicia Brazie and Selectmen Jed Lipsky and Rick Mielke were present. The Grange will have an exhibit on Agriculture and Conservation, April 4-29, in charge of Florence Brown and Committee.

At the regular meeting, March 16, plans for the hall and Grange membership were discussed. New members are always welcome. The Annual State Ball will be at Westport, April 30. Plans for a Conservation exhibit were made, to be placed in the Post Office April 24-30. Sisters Florence Brown and Eleanor Kimberley will be in charge. The next meeting will be on April 6, for the Springtime Program.

— Mary Wallace
Lecturer

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Any fool can criticize, complain and condemn, and most do.

Sincerely yours,

Dean Amidon

To the Editor:

Why do you persist in publishing such a sober, worthy, solemn little paper? Don't you realize that there is *joie*, and *vivre* in the world? Why do you always wear your civic suit of hodden grey and run timorously along the banks of the River of Life, afraid to plunge in?

What better time could there be for you and your readers to wake up than on April 1 and use a little wit and mirth as pills to purge melancholy?

Yours irately,

An Irate Reader

To the Editor:

Last night I had a dream about Monterey, and even though I've never been there I had to write to tell you what a marvelous place it was in my dream. I first heard of your town from my sister who had a boyfriend in college whose brother visited Monterey as a prospective summer camper. Since then it has lived on in my imagination, untouched by reality or even consciousness, until last night. Needless to say, it was really quite marvelous. Thank you for being so, well, marvelous.

— Emma Pillow

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LAND TRUST NEWS

In recent issues of the *Monterey News*, you must have rea about the Land Trust purchase of the farm on Barnum Flat. W can now report on the disposition of that prominent property

We got started there in the first place just because it was suc a prime chunk for preservation, with the old farmhouse, barn and lovely fields spread out below. It seemed likely that som rich fan of Early America would pay top dollar for the place restore it to museum quality, and leave us all with a fine ex ample of pure eighteenth century architecture to pass on ou way to work every day. Then came Black Monday, the big stoc market crash of 1987, and we realized the project might loo like nothing more than a lot of work (and for what?), even to restoration fanatic. Still, we liked the idea of making a buc on the place, and in several long meetings we pondered integrat ing a shopping mall with the old farm. (Even in a collapse economy, people won't give up shopping.) But before we' taken our preliminary plans to the people at Pyramid, the school house was condemned for use as Town offices. Then windfa revenue from a tax long on the books but never collected unti the Town Watchdog flushed it out of hiding in mountains o paper left the Town treasury so far into the black it looke suspicious.

The Selectmen became anxious about moving some of tha cash in a hurry. They zeroed right in on Barnum Flat as th best place for a new Town hall. We happily shelved our buddin mall plan (what a lot of capital they take!) and sold the Fla for a bundle to the Town of Monterey, a known, if troublesome entity. We've secured a covenant as well that will enable us t put up some affordable housing on the back land with mone the Town has agreed to get for us from the state and federa governments. It's all very hand-in-glove, as these things shoul be. Local builders are submitting bids for the new office build ing, which will likely be high rise, in order to take up as littl land as possible, and preserve the farm. Of course, if it turn out that the old farmhouse already sits on the best buildin site, then so be it: we'll have to burn it down (good fire practice and build there. Buildings must go up wherever environmenta considerations dictate. We can always make a diorama for th lobby, showing our town as it was in its Golden Age (1956-1962)

The engineer's report on soil samples taken for the foundatio study will soon be complete. We'll keep you informed.

— Stonewall P. Trustworthy, Sec'y

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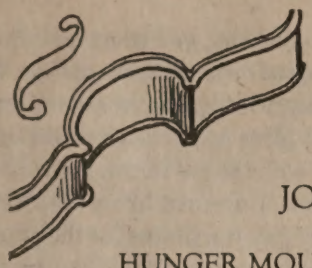

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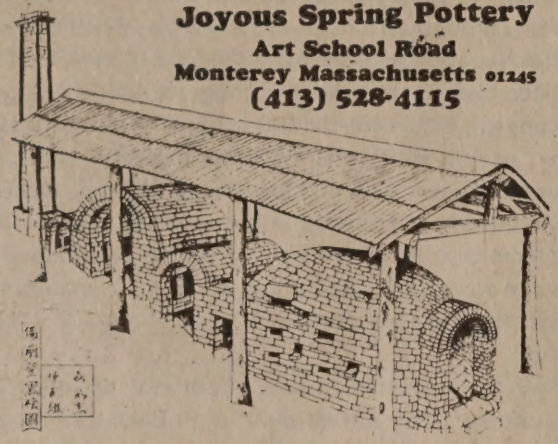

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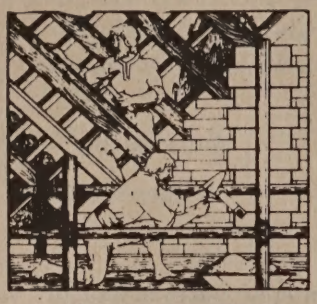

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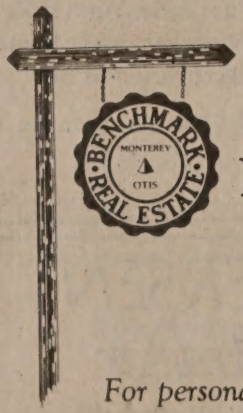

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PARK COMMISSION

The Park Commission is making great progress with its ad hoc committees. The tennis committee reports Matt Williams' generous offer to house tennis courts at Lee Side Lodge, complete with a building for restrooms and a deck for onlookers. As our swimming instructor Maria Moulthrop is expecting a baby and cannot teach this year, we have prevailed upon Maynard Forbes to do the job, which means a great sacrifice as it will take away from his precious golf time. Our overcrowded beach problem is solved! Tom Rosenthal has invited the town to use his backyard by the Konkapot River. Also Frank D'Amato and Len Weber suggest that the new Gazebo would be just great on the Library Lawn. We do thank all these loyal and dedicated townspeople for their contributions!

— Narf, Ked, and Mot

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LAKE GARFIELD ASSOCIATION REPORT

The lake will not be filled up this year in order to expedite the killing and removing of weeds. No canoes or sailboats will be allowed, only boats with motors greater than 50HP and jet skiis in order to tear up the weeds at the lower lake level.

Substitute swimming will be offered at the dam behind the General Store. Wading will be available at Brewer Pond.

The geese will be fed from funds provided by the Association in order to encourage them to proliferate and return to the beaches and lawns around the lake.

The Association will vote this summer to provide wet suits for all lakeshore residents in order to facilitate the harvesting of the weeds.

The officers of the Association wish you all a happy summer and we will see you at our annual meeting on Saturday, June 25.

No rotten eggs or stale vegetables will be allowed at the meeting.

— The Lake Garfield Association

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Saturday, April 2—Arts Council film, *Black Orpheus*, prize-winning Brazilian film set in Rio de Janeiro in Carneval time. 7:30 p.m. in the Church Social Room.

Mondays, April 4, 11, 18, 25—Bible Study Group at the Schulzes' on New Marlborough Road. Free of charge: sign up at General Store or call Karen Gottlieb-Schulze at 528-4052.

Saturday, April 9—Square and Contra dance, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults, $4; children, $1 to dance until intermission. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

—Rabies Clinic at the Monterey Fire House, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Cost of a rabies shot is $6.00. Dog licenses will also be available for purchase as they are at any time from the Town Clerk.

April 13—Jacqui and Bridie, British folksingers, at Pilgrim House on Granite Avenue, just off Routes 7 and 44, in Canaan at 8:30 p.m. For information call 203-379-9857, or 413-229-7973.

Friday, April 22—Land Preservation Trust presentation of Rep. Chris Hodgkins to speak to the town on the Land Bank and Massachusetts' extraordinary allocation of half a billion dollars in the Open Space Bill. At the Grange Hall, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 23—Square and Contra dance. New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. This program is for people who have done it before. For other details see above in announcement for Saturday, April 9.

Wednesday, April 27—Community Supper in the Church Social Room, 6:30 p.m. Bring your own inimitable potluck dish and sample the culinary prowess of your neighbors. Entertainment to be announced.

Saturday, May 7—Monterey's Annual Town Meeting, in the Fire House at 10:00 a.m. The warrant will be out a week beforehand; we've had indications in these pages that among the things to be considered will be various options concerning a Town hall, and a registration of the town's opinion concerning President Reagan's "Star Wars," or "Strategic Defense Initiative."

HIGHWAY CREW VACANCIES*

The selectmen regretfully accepted two resignations in March —from Mark Annelli on March 21 and from Art Hastedt effective April 20. Therefore, we ask the townspeople of Monterey to bear with our Highway Department crew of two until we can fill these vacancies. The positions vacant are both laborer/operator. Please apply to the selectmen.

Chris Bragdon
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UPON MY WORD!

There has been a flurry of excitement in the academic world over the discovery of documents in a Norwegian tomb indicating that Leif Erikson was not the first to discover America. Apparently, it was Loof Lirpa, a Viking explorer related to Harold Bluenose, who lived circa 815 A.D. Loof was so nimble, it seems, he could play the harp with his toes and leap from oar to oar as his ship was sailing towards Greenland. His exploits were the subject of the lost Idjotenskaldsaga. I owe this item to my Scandinavian husband Walter Andersen.

— Åse O. Hausdatter

VOX POX

We hope that no one will have read this far in the present issue of the *Monterey News* without realizing that it is a precedent-shattering April Fool's issue. Our Advisory Board is really a sober, law-abiding group of people with the good of the town in our hearts, but something took hold of us at our last meeting that was stronger than we were. It was the Spirit of Saturnalia, or perhaps Walpürgisnacht.

Without a dissenting vote we plunged into the plans that produced this issue and we hope our readers get some measure of enjoyment out of it. Though nobody said a word of justification at the meeting, any anthropologist can see, in retrospect, what happened. In northern climates when the winter gets just a little too long, especially after spring has officially arrived, the thin veneer of cultural restraint is likely to split asunder.

As evidence that foolery is balm to the much-tried Berkshire Psyche, after galoshes, mittens, cars that won't start in the morning, and other factors that make us forget at times how gorgeous winter really is, our contributors rallied with exemplary enthusiasm behind the idea.

When the skeleton (Old Man Winter) came creaking into the bar (the Abode of Hope) and was asked what he wanted (the Eternal Question), he replied, "A beer—and a mop (Spring)."

Note: The few items in this issue marked with an asterisk (*), such as the Calendar, are real.

— Daffyd Alexandrefils

AD RATES

One-inch classified ads (1″ x 3⅝″)	$ 2.50
Two-inch busines cards (2″ x 3⅝″)	5.00
Three-inch ad (3″ x 3⅝″)	7.50
Four-inch ad (4″ x 3⅝″)	10.00

Back cover ads are double the above prices. No classifieds on the back cover. Copy should reach the editor by the 20th of the month before publication. In general, we cannot run letters more than one column in length.

Editor	David P. McAllester
Business Manager	Barbara Gauthier
Art Editor	Bonner McAllester
Personal Notes Editor	Stephanie Grotz
Typesetters	Pat Amstead
	Eileen Clawson
Reporter	Ellen K. Pearson
Layout and design	Susan McAllester
Sorting	Stella Bodnar
Mailing labels	Virgil Stucker and the Gould Farm computer

Drawings by Maureen Banner, Chris Burkhart, Mabel C. Rupp, and Angelo Michèle.

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